Amendments to the Drawings

In amended Figure 4, the previously included note for element 405 has been removed.

In amended Figure 5, the previously included note for element 521 has been removed.

Attachment: Replacement Drawing Sheets

Remarks/Arguments

In the specification:

In amended Figure 4, the element numeral 405 has been removed.

In the claims:

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended, no claims have been canceled, and claims 32-36 have been added. Claims 1-36 are now pending in the application.

Claims 3, 16, 21, 24 and 25 were found allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 32 is combination of unamended (with the exception of the corrected typographical error) claims 1-3. Claim 33 is combination of unamended claim 10, 15 and 16. Claim 34 is combination of unamended claim 10, 20 and 21. Claim 35 is combination of unamended claim 10, 22, 23 and 24. Claim 36 is claim 25.

In response to the Office Action Summary of July 2006 and the Interview Summary of October 9, 2006:

The examiner and SPE are thanked for the courtesy extended in conducting the interview. The examiner and SPE suggested changing Claim 1, line 7 "connecting" to "connecting only", and likewise for Claim 10, line 9.

Upon further consideration, it is believed that the term "only" is excessively limiting, as it may invite attempts to design around the claims by connecting insignificant items to the end brackets. Instead, Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to clarify that the end brackets connect adjacent parallel chords without contacting any other of the at least three chords.

Fisher 6,065,267 "formers" connect to a third chord. Like Fisher, the "end plates" in Swan connect to a third chord.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the application is in condition for allowance, and requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is requested to call Applicant to resolve any questions or outstanding issues regarding this response.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Appendix

See attached drawings.